<u>AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION</u>

Please accept the replacement paragraphs.

On page 1, lines 11-28.

Extensible mark-up language (XML) is fast becoming the dominant language for e-commerce, web portals, content services and other important information processing applications implemented on the Internet. The XML standard describes a class of data objects called XML documents and the behavior of computer programs which process such documents. XML is an application profile or restricted form of the standard generalized mark-up language (SGML). XML documents are made up of storage units called entities, which contain either parsed or unparsed data. Parsed data is made up of characters, some of which form character data, and some of which form markup. Markup for a given XML document encodes a description of the storage layout and logical structure of that document. XML provides a mechanism to impose constraints on the storage layout and logical structure. Additional details regarding conventional XML may be found in XML 1.0 (Second Edition), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Recommendation, October 2000, <u>located on the web at</u> ~~www.~~ w3.org/TR/REC-xml, which is incorporated by reference herein.

On page 2, lines 1-16.

An XML parser may be viewed as a software library used to facilitate XML document manipulations. Most conventional XML parsers are configured for compatibility with the entire XML 1.0 grammar, and thus require relatively large software components. Examples of conventional XML parsers include the Xerecs-J and Xerecs-C parsers, and the XP parser. Standard application programming interfaces (APIs) are used to provide predefined interfaces for one or more of these parsers. These APIs include DOM 1.0, described in Document Object Model (DOM) Level 1 Specification, Version 1.0, W3C Recommendation, October 1998, <u>located on the web at</u> ~~www.~~w3.org/TR/1998/REC-DOM-Level-1-19981001, which is incorporated by reference herein, and SAX, described in SAX 2.0, "The Simple API for XML," <u>located on the web at</u> ~~www.~~megginson.com/SAX/sax.html, which is incorporated by reference herein. The above-noted Xerecs-J and Xerecs-C parsers implement both the DOM and SAX APIs, while the XP parser implements only the SAX API.